

**TOWN OF MONTGOMERY, VERMONT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES – 2019**

Moderator, Timothy Murphy, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, March 5th, 2019.

1. Elect a Moderator for the ensuing year (Tim Murphy – term expires)

Patrick Farmer nominated Timothy Murphy. Hearing no other nominations, Timothy was elected by voice vote.

2. Accept the reports of Town Officers

Deanna-Dee Robitaille made a motion to accept the reports of the Town Officers and was seconded. Discussion ensued. Charles Hancock made a motion to amend the reports of the Town Officers as follows:

- Correction to page 30, Restoration of Records. Revenues total \$7,740 and expenses total \$12,236.02.
- Correction to page 3, Town Officers. Justices of the Peace amended to replace Laurie Murphy with Deanna-Dee Robitaille and correct term ending date to 2021.
- Correction to page 5, Town Officers. Zoning Administrator amended to Ellen Fox.
- Correction to page 33, Delinquent Tax Collector's Report. Amend final header title to read "Total Taxes Due As Of December 31st, 2018"
- Correction to page 104, Helpful Town Information. Amend Planning Commission meeting time to 6:00pm.

Hearing no other discussion, the motion to accept the reports as amended passed by voice vote.

3. "Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint a Town Clerk as provided in 17 V.S.A. § 2651e?" (Deanna Robitaille – term expires 2021)

Tosca Smith made a motion, as written, and was seconded. Discussion ensued regarding candidate eligibility and consideration of persons from outside of town as well as compensation structure for both Clerk and Treasurer given the growing work load for each position. Gabrielle Lumbrá called the question. The motion passed by voice vote.

4. "Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint a Town Treasurer as provided in 17 V.S.A. § 2651f?" (Erin Kopacz appointed following resignation of Deanna Robitaille)

Wendy Howard made a motion, as written, and was seconded. Discussion ensued with clarifying questions based on the previous article. Hearing no further discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

5. Elect the remaining Town Officers as required by law:

a. A Selectperson for a term of two years by ballot (Jacob Racusin – term expires)

Larry Letourneau nominated Jacob Racusin. Hearing no other nominations and without objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to re-elect Jacob Racusin.

b. A Selectperson for a term of three years by ballot (Charlie Hancock – term expires)

Tosca Smith nominated Charles Hancock. Hearing no other nominations and without objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to re-elect Charles Hancock.

c. A Town Treasurer and Collector of Current Taxes, to fill the remainder of a three year term by ballot (Erin Kopacz appointed – term expires 2021)

Tosca Smith nominated Erin Kopacz. Charles Hancock made a motion to amend the article to exclude "Town Treasurer and" from the Article, given the passage of Article 4, and was seconded. Hearing no

further discussion, the amendment passed by voice vote. Hearing no other nominations and no objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to elect Erin Kopacz.

d. A Lister for a term of three years by ballot (Rob Barnard, appointed to fill vacancy created by resignation of Deanna Robitaille – term expires)

Tosca Smith nominated Robert Barnard III???. Hearing no other nominations and no objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to elect Robert Barnard III???

e. A Lister for the remainder of a term of three years by ballot (Parma Jewett resigned - term expires 2020)

Charles Hancock nominated Joe Jones. Brief discussion ensued as Mr. Jones was not in attendance to make a statement to the voters. Charles noted that Mr. Jones has been training with the Listers over the past few months. Sarita Khan added that Mr. Jones has been a resident of Montgomery for four years. Hearing no other nominations and no objection, the Moderator instructed the Town Clerk to cast a single ballot to elect Joe Jones.

f. A First Constable for a term of two years (Brent Godin – term expires)

Tosca Smith nominated Brent Godin. Hearing no other nominations, Brent was re-elected by voice vote.

g. An Agent to prosecute and defend suits in which the Town is interested for a term of one year (Barry Kade – term expires)

Tosca Smith nominated Barry Kade. Hearing no other nominations, Barry was re-elected by voice vote.

h. One of more Grand Jurors for a term of one year (Selectboard – term expires)

Patrick Farmer nominated the Selectboard. Hearing no other nominations, the Selectboard was re-elected by voice vote.

i. A Cemetery Commissioner for the Village Cemetery Association for a term of five years (Vivian Deuso – term expires)

Lois Lumbra nominated George Gabuzda. Hearing no other nominations, George was elected by voice vote.

j. A Cemetery Commissioner for the Center Cemetery Association for a term of five years (Ann Purrier – term expires)

Wendy Howard nominated Annie Purrier. Hearing no other nominations, Annie was re-elected by voice vote.

k. A Library Trustee for a term of three years (Marijke Dollois – term expires)

Patricia Hathaway nominated Marijke Dollois. Hearing no other nominations, Marijke was re-elected by voice vote.

l. A Library Trustee for a term of three years (Jane Pressler – term expires)

Patricia Hathaway nominated Jane Presler. Hearing no other nominations, Jane was re-elected by voice vote.

m. A Fire Commissioner for a term of two years (Joseph Zartarian – term expires)

William Baker, Sr nominated Joseph Zartarian. Hearing no other nominations, Joseph was re-elected by voice vote.

n. A Planning Commission member for a term of three years (Alissa Hardy – term expires)

Roberta Baker nominated Alissa Hardy. Hearing no other nominations, Alissa was re-elected by voice vote.

6. Shall the Town vote to establish a designated reserve account for Flood or Emergency Road repairs (currently included in Contingent Selectboard)?

Mark Brouillette made a motion, as written, and was seconded. Charles Hancock explained that this fund would be different from the current Infrastructure Repair and Replacement fund in that it would allow the Town to put monies away in the event of a disaster to reduce the risk of having to drain our other accounts during those times. Hearing no other discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

7. Shall the Town vote the following sums of money to defray expenses in the ensuing year for:

a. Fire Department: 2018 - \$34,000; 2019 – same

Suzanne Wilson made a motion for \$34,000 and was seconded. Hearing no other discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

b. Machinery Replacement Fund: 2018 - \$32,000; 2019 - \$27,000

Wendy Howard made a motion for \$27,000 and was seconded. Following a brief discussion of current balance and expected need, the motion passed by voice vote.

c. Infrastructure Replacement Fund: 2018 - \$52,700; 2019 – same

Mark Brouillette made a motion for \$52,700 and was seconded. Following a brief discussion of current balance and expected need, the motion passed by voice vote.

d. Library Operating Expenses and Payroll: 2018 - \$19,032; 2019 – same

Elizabeth Crane made a motion for \$19,032 and was seconded. Following brief discussion of current balance and use of the amount requested, the motion passed by voice vote.

e. Building Capital Improvement & Maintenance: 2018 - \$50,000; 2019 - \$30,000

Brent Godin made a motion for \$30,000 and was seconded. Discussion ensued regarding current balance and expected needs. Tosca Smith made a motion to suspend the rules to allow non-resident Walter Knight to speak regarding the scoping study for a municipal wastewater system. The motion passed by a two-thirds voice vote and Walter was allowed to speak. Following discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

f. Recreation Department: 2018 - \$20,000; 2019 – same

Carol Farmer made a motion for \$20,000 and was seconded. Following brief discussion of current balance and use of the amount requested, the motion passed by voice vote.

g. Reappraisal Fund: 2018 - \$8,000; 2019 – same

Titus Presler made a motion for \$8,000 and was seconded. Following a brief discussion of current balance and the timeline and expense for the next reappraisal, the motion passed by voice vote.

h. Conservation Commission: 2018 - \$750; 2019 – same

Titus Presler made a motion for \$750 and was seconded. Charles Hancock explained, upon request, what the Conservation Commission does. The motion passed by voice vote.

i. Emergency Management: 2018 - \$1,200; 2019 – same

Wendy Howard made a motion for \$1,200 and was seconded. Following a brief discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

j. Restoration of Records: 2018 - \$4,000; 2019 - \$0

Wendy Howard made a motion for \$4,000 and was seconded. Deanna-Dee Robitaille stated that the fund is healthy and can forego the appropriation this year as long as it is revisited next year. Wendy withdrew her motion. Merle VanGieson made a motion to Passover. The motion passed by a two-thirds voice vote.

k. Flood or Emergency Road Repairs: 2019 - \$5,000

Mark Brouillette made a motion for \$5,000 and was seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

8. Shall the Town vote the following sums of money for the Town Officers as requested?

a. Each Selectboard Member: 2018 - \$1,000 + thanks; 2019 – Same

Brent Godin made a motion for \$1,000 and thanks and was seconded. Titus Presler commended the Board for their service and professionalism which prompted a standing ovation. The motion passed by voice vote.

b. Listers: 2018 – 1st year members \$15.00/hr, 2nd year members \$18.00/hr. 2019 – same

Brent Godin made a motion for \$15/hour for first year members and \$18/hour for second year and beyond and was seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

c. Board of Civil Authority: 2018 - \$10.00/hr.; 2019 – Vermont Minimum Wage

Tosca Smith made a motion for the Vermont Minimum Wage and seconded. Following a brief discussion regarding actual request for payments by the BCA, the motion passed by voice vote.

d. Board of Abatement: 2018 - \$10.00/hr.; 2019 - Vermont Minimum Wage

Wendy Howard made a motion for the Vermont Minimum Wage and seconded. Following a brief discussion regarding actual request for payments by the BOA, the motion passed by voice vote.

e. All duly elected or appointed Town Officers the IRS allowance for mileage for travel as part of official duties, and reimbursement of expenses related to those duties if approved in advance by the appropriate governing body or duly appointed board?

Tosca made a motion, as written, and was seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

9. Shall the Town of Montgomery appropriate the following sums of money as requested by the specified agencies?

Patrick Farmer made a motion to suspend the rules to consider Article 9 in its entirety and was seconded. The motion passed by a two-thirds voice vote.

a. Age Well (formerly Champlain Valley Agency on Aging) 2018 - \$2,000; 2019 - requested \$2,000

b. Franklin Home Health 2018 - \$2,522; 2019 – requested \$2,522

c. Franklin County Industrial Development 2018 - \$500; 2019- requested \$500

d. Hazen’s Notch Association 2018 - \$1,000; 2019 – requested \$1,000

e. Missisquoi River Basin Association 2018 - \$500; 2019 – requested \$500

f. Green Up Day Vermont 2018 - \$100; 2019 – requested \$100

g. Green Mountain Transit 2018 - \$568; 2018 – requested \$568

h. Montgomery Town Association 2018 - \$1,000; 2019 – requested \$1,000

Diane Bocian asked what the Montgomery Town Association does for the community. Suzanne Dollois addressed the question. Hearing no other discussion, the motion to approve Article 9 in its entirety passed by voice vote.

10. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$601,703 for Contingent Selectboard? 2018 - \$458,758

Tosca Smith made a motion for \$601,703 and was seconded. Elizabeth Burgess asked if this amount included funds for paving the Public Safety Building parking lot. Charles Hancock addressed the question and situation with Northwest Solid Waste District. The motion passed by voice vote.

11. Shall the Town vote to purchase a new Fire Tanker, and authorize the Selectboard to borrow up to \$240,000 for a term of 5 years, with the balance to be paid out of the Machinery Replacement fund?

Suzanne Wilson made a motion, as written, and was seconded. Discussion ensued regarding the need and storage of the proposed tanker. The motion passed by voice vote.

The Moderator, at 10:35, recognized State Representative Felisha Leffler. Hearing no objection, Felisha spoke briefly regarding business at the Statehouse and fielded questions from the voters.

12. Shall the Town vote to change the fiscal year from January 1 – December 31, to a fiscal year from July 1 - June 30, effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1683(c)?”

Deanna-Dee Robitaille made a motion, as written, and was seconded. Charles Hancock and Deanna explained the proposed change would provide a voter-approved budget prior to the beginning of the fiscal year, allow time for a commercial audit each year prior to town report publication, and to allow receipt of tax revenue in a more timely manner compared to expenditure. The motion passed by voice vote.

13. Shall the town vote to approve a half cent increase in the tax rate to be allotted to the Conservation Reserve Fund (established by the voters in 2018) in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2804.

Suzanne Wilson made a motion, as written, and was seconded. Discussion ensued regarding possible uses for these funds. The motion passed by voice vote.

14. Shall the voters of The Town of Montgomery advise the Selectboard to support the exploration, through a feasibility study to be funded by a municipal planning grant, of the development of a municipal wastewater system to include the center and/or village?

Carol Farmer made a motion, as written, and was seconded. Discussion ensued regarding the potential need, service area and prior studies. It was clarified that this Article ONLY gives the authority to pursue feasibility and is not a purchasing authority. The motion passed by voice vote.

15. To do any other business proper to be done at said meeting.

Mark Brouillette recognized the Highway / Public Works Department for their work and dedication during the trying winter months as well as to the numerous volunteers and officials that work diligently to keep the town running smoothly.

Charles Hancock recognized the residents and taxpayers, both absent and in attendance, for their dedication to local government, involvement and volunteerism.

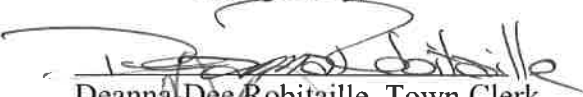
Barry Kade made a motion that the voters pass the following non-binding resolution;
"Climate change being the greatest threat to our national, state and local security; and the "point of no return" having been estimated as only twelve years from now:

Therefor Resolved that the voters of the Town of Montgomery instruct their legislators; local, state and national to start leading, so as to avoid the impending catastrophic consequences."

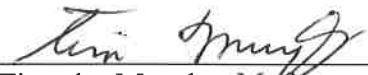
Hearing no discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.


Hearing no further discussion, Christina Suarez made a motion to adjourn and was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:28am.

Dated at Montgomery, Vermont this 27th day of March, 2019


Deanna-Dee Robitaille, Town Clerk


Charles Hancock, Selectboard Chair


Timothy Murphy, Moderator

MONTGOMERY TOWN CLERK OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORD/DISCHARGE
MAR 8 th A.D. 2019 at 8 o'clock - min. A.M.
Recorded in Vol. <u>MI 11</u> Page(s) <u>323 - 327</u>
of Montgomery Land Records
Attest  Clerk